

1945.

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
Warrington Rural District Council



John Walker & Co., Ltd.,  
Bewsey Street, Warrington.





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## WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1945

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### Chairman:

Mr. J. J. P. PALIN .. .. Great Sankey.

### Vice-Chairman:

Mr. R. K. WILSON .. Winwick (Houghton).

### Councillors:

Mr. T. FORSHAW, J.P.	..	..	Burtonwood.
Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P.	..	..	Cuerdley.
Mr. W. H. COTTRELL	..	..	Poulton-with-Fearnhead.
Mr. A. S. BREWER	..	..	Rixton-with-Glazebrook.
Mr. J. C. WARBURTON	..	..	Croft.
Mr. E. SMETHURST, J.P.	..	..	Winwick (St. Oswalds).
Mr. E. R. E. THORNTON	..	..	Penketh
Mr. R. RYDER	..	..	Woolston.

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,  
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the Year 1945 as follows:

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figure is 21,800.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ..... 20.1

Still Births—Legitimate ..... 12

Illegitimate ..... 4

There were 37 Live Illegitimate Births

Birth Rate for England and Wales ..... 16.1

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ..... 11.6

Death Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ..... 11.4

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000

Live Births ..... 63

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000

Live Births for England and Wales ..... 46

Deaths from Puerperal Fever ..... Nil

The Birth Rate while down by 2.6 on 1944 is practically the same as the mean of the previous 5 years, the difference being only 0.1 and compares with the figure of 16.1 for England and Wales.

The Death Rate is up from 9.6 to 11.6, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 11.4. There was no death from Puerperal Fever and the diseases responsible for the highest number of deaths totalling 254 were:

Heart Disease ..... 71

Cancer ..... 38

Bronchitis ..... 21

Pneumonia ..... 8



Infantile Mortality is up from 40 in 1944, to 63 per 1,000 Live Births.

There were 28 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and seven of these were due to Premature birth and two to congenital defects—an unusually large proportion.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was a marked drop in notifications viz: 201 against 493 in 1944. Scarlet Fever being down from 100 to 52 and Measles from 299 to 108. These epidemics (major and minor) are prone to occur in cycles when new generations of children have grown to more susceptible ages. It is good to note that for a considerable time now, Scarlet Fever has been much less virulent in type. Disinfection is carried out in every case and includes the sterilization of beds and bed clothes, where indicated.

We have always the ready co-operation of the Hospital authorities which means a great deal.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This work has close and continuous attention and is progressing smoothly and steadily, sessions being held from time to time (when numbers warrant the holding of a clinic).

I am pleased to report that there was no case of Diphtheria among the civilian population of the district during the year. That of course, is the ideal we are working for and hoping to attain every year.

During the 12 months—January 1st to December 31st, 1945, the following are the figures of Immunisation:

Children under 5 years of age .....	300
Children over 5 years of age .....	37
	<hr/>
Total ...	337
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These figures can be considered good but ought to be better. I must commend those parents and guardians who have taken advantage of this wonderful safeguard against a dread disease, and also to ask the doubters to reconsider their very **SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY** to their children, who are entitled to this protection. **VAIN REGRETS WILL NEVER HELP.**

## HOUSING

Throughout the district repairs to houses progressed only very slowly. The scarcity of labour and materials continues and no doubt when the new housing programme gets under way, will for some time become more acute. The need for new houses in the very near future, to house those members of the public who have no home of their own, and to rehouse those living under unsatisfactory conditions, is apparent to all. The needs of those without houses must obviously be tackled first, although from a public point of view it is a sad thought that so many people are living and so many children are growing up in unsatisfactory dwellings.

It has been possible to deal only with the more urgent cases of house repair, the procedure followed being that informal action has been followed in the more difficult cases by procedure under the Public Health Act, 1936. No action has been taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is not possible at the present time to carry out sufficient repairs in order that the house may be certified as being fit in all respects for a period of 5 years. The years since 1939 may be regarded as lost years so far as the carrying out of action under the Housing Act is concerned, and when the time arrives that labour and materials are provided for repair and reconstruction work, a tremendous leeway will have to be made up.

It is to be sincerely hoped that that time will shortly arrive.

The comprehensive housing survey required by the Ministry has not been carried out due to the shortage of staff and the inadequate means provided for housing repair work. As a preparatory measure for carrying out this survey, a survey has been carried out of all the houses erected in the area prior to 1914 and classification based on external appreciations have been made. This survey alone reveals that of this type of house, some 1,500 houses will require attention. In order that the obligation of the Authority in seeing that the working classes are adequately housed, housing inspections followed by the necessary repair notices should be made once each five years as a regular procedure, and it is recommended that such a course of action be taken as soon as conditions permit.

The number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action was 124 and the number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices was 5.



## GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

We, in this country, have been extraordinarily free from serious epidemics and high death rates during and after such a devastating War, but, in my opinion, it would be very far wrong to assume that the standard of health and well-being was good generally. The shortage of fats, sugar, and variety in the diet, combined with the irksome difficulties of getting even bare necessities, and the after effects of War strain and prolonged war effort, have all combined to bring about a condition of physical and nervous "tiredness" which increases the liability to sub-acute conditions such as nervous complaints, catarrhs, muscular lack of tone, etc., of which there is plenty of evidence. Surely, however, the present year will see some improvement particularly in the amount of the basic food necessities for "good health."

During the War years also, greatly increased responsibilities were added to the depleted staffs of Local Authorities and, generally, these were cheerfully accepted for the Country's sake and carried out well. It meant, however, that staffs were only able to deal efficiently with really urgent matters where, as in the Health Department, conditions were an immediate danger to health.

Rodent control has now evidently become a permanent duty of local Councils and the tendency is always to increase the work of Public Officials who do not always get from the public generally, the credit for conscientious service that they so often deserve. We are glad to welcome back members of the different staffs who have been doing service with the Forces. The process of getting back to civil life is about as difficult as entering the Service life and Patience should be the watchword with those who are most closely associated with them whether at home or at work.

I beg to remain,

Yours very faithfully,

JAS. CULLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS

Area (acres) .....	22,840
Estimated population 1945 .....	26,000
Number of inhabited houses .....	6,044
Rateable Value .....	£151,389
Sum represented by a 1d. rate .....	£609

## VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate .....	215	187	402
Illegitimate .....	16	21	37
Total .....	231	208	439
Still Births .....	11	5	16
Deaths .....	128	126	254

### Population for Birth Rate and Death Rate 21,800

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth rate	Crude death rate	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total live and still births	
Mean of 5 years—							
1940-1944 ... ..	20.2	9.5	0.28	1.19	7.44	7.18	49
Year 1944 ... ..	22.7	9.6	0.31	1.18	6.01	5.82	40
1945 ... ..	20.1	11.6	0.41	1.74	Nil	Nil	63
Increase or decrease in 1945 on 5 years average							
1940-1944 ... ..	0.1	2.1	0.13	0.55	7.44	7.18	14
previous year ...	2.6	2.0	0.10	0.56	6.01	5.82	23

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
All causes .....	128	126
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever .....	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	6	3
Tuberculosis—other forms .....	0	1
Syphilis .....	0	0
Influenza .....	1	3
Measles .....	0	0
Polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis .....	0	0
Infec. encephalitis .....	0	1
Cancer, all forms .....	15	23
Diabetes .....	2	1
Intra-Cran: Vase: lesions .....	11	4
Heart disease .....	28	43
Other circulatory diseases .....	2	1
Bronchitis .....	13	8
Pneumonia .....	5	3
Other respiratory diseases .....	4	1
Peptic ulcer .....	3	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	1	1
Diarrhoea (2 years and over) .....	0	0
Appendicitis .....	4	1
Other causes, at birth .....	6	5
Nephritis .....	3	2
Puerperal sepsis .....	0	0
Other maternal causes .....	0	0
Premature birth .....	2	4
Other causes, at birth .....	6	6
Suicide .....	0	0
Road Traffic Act .....	2	2
Other violent causes .....	4	3
Other violence .....	14	12



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1945

There were 201 cases notified during the Year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified and the number removed to Hospital.

DISEASE	Total cases of all ages	UNDER 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital	G.M.H. Wick	Non Civ.
Scarlet Fever .....	52	...	...	2	1	5	29	10	1	4	...	...	...	28	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Paratyphoid Fever .	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	1	...	1
Measles .....	108	4	11	17	19	23	29	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough ....	10	1	4	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia .....	15	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	3	...	4	2	...	4	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Dysentery .....	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	2	7	...
Erysipelas .....	8	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	3	...	5	3	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	....	...	...	2
	201	9	15	21	21	29	64	12	4	10	6	8	2	41	24	5

## TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 .....	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
25 .....	3	4	...	...	1	2	...	...
35 .....	3	2	...	1	1	1	...	...
45 .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	7	8	2	1	3	4	—	—
Grand Totals ..	15		3		7		—	

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health ..... Dr. J. Cullen (part-time).  
 Chief Sanitary Inspector ..... Mr. W. A. Morrison.  
 Additional Sanitary Inspector ..... Mr. S. Reeves.  
 Pupil Inspectors ... Mr. A. Murray (H.M. Forces), Mr. L. Foxley (H.M. Forces), Mr. G. Sixsmith (H.M. Forces).

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for examination are sent to both the Liverpool University and the County Analyst, Preston.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Motor ambulance services are provided by the Newton-le-Willows U.D. Council and the Warrington County Borough for both Infectious, Accident and Maternity cases.

## NURSING ARRANGMENTS

Whole time district nurses are employed by four Nursing Associations in the area.



## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

These Centres are under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council and are available for residents in the area as follows:—

Burtonwood—Church Hall, Thursday, 10—12 a.m.

Penketh and Great Sankey—Methodist School, Penketh, Monday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Poulton and Woolston—Padgate Methodist School, Wednesday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook—Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, Irlam Hall, Irlam, Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Warrington and Liverpool Corporations to most of the area.

The testing and sampling of this water is done by the supplying authorities.

Some progress has been made to have the remaining number of wells in the area tested and where possible to have connections made to the houses from the mains supply. At the end of the year 45 houses were still supplied by well water, 10 houses having had piped supplies installed. Thirteen samples of well water have been submitted for bacteriological examination and 22 submitted for chemical examination. Generally the results have proved unsatisfactory, but progress in laying on satisfactory supplies is slow due to the isolated position of the houses and the shortage of the necessary materials.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No change has taken place during the year in the treatment of sewage in the area. At Burtonwood treatment is by precipitation and willow beds, and at one estate in Glazebrook a new tank and rotary filter is being constructed.

In the remainder of the area, septic tanks are in use, the effluent, very often unsatisfactory, being discharged into ditches and streams.

No definite progress can be made in this direction until a comprehensive scheme for the whole of the district is introduced.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Pollution of rivers and streams is only to be expected in areas where no general sewerage scheme exists and this area is no exception, it being both considerable and widespread.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1945

There are approximately 1,350 pail closets in use in the area together with about 40 privy middens.

The percentage of water closets for the area is approximately 77.

## NURSERIES

Padgate Nursery (closed).

Sankey Nursey (open daytime only).

Padgate Nursery is now a Junior School run by the Lancashire Education Committee.

## HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT

The hospitals serving the district for cases of Infectious Disease are the Warrington and Newton-le-Willows Isolation Hospitals.

The principle Hospitals for general cases are the Warrington Infirmary and the Warrington General Hospital.

## DISINFESTATION

It was necessary to disinfest three houses during the year and this was carried out by spraying with Zaldecide and the use of sulphur blocks.

## DISINFECTION

The number of houses disinfected after Infectious Disease was 70. For cases of Scarlet Fever disinfection is carried out by spraying with formaldehyde and disinfectant is provided so that bedding can be washed in a solution of disinfectant.

For Diphtheria and Tuberculosis cases the bedding, etc., is treated in the steam disinfector at the Warrington Isolation Hospital.

## SCHOOLS

All schools are provided with water from the mains supply but unfortunately several schools are still using pail closets.



## OFFENSIVE TRADES

Comparatively few complaints have been received regarding the Offensive Trades in the district. Regular visits and inspections are carried out to ensure their cleanliness and proper working.

## FACTORIES ACT 1937

Factories were visited as often as was found possible and canteens attached to some of the larger factories were also inspected. Improvements were obtained to the sanitary conveniences at several premises.

## TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Five caravans were licensed for two monthly periods and regular inspections were made to ensure that good sanitary conditions were observed.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

The direction of Public Cleansing and Salvage in the area is dealt with by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. No great changes have taken place since the partial change over to direct labour in 1943 and details of collections are all listed in the 1944 report.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Full details of all inspections made are shown in the table at the end of the report.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

It has not been possible to take any action under the Shops Act 1934 relating to the temperature and ventilation of shops and the sanitary conveniences, or under the Public Health Act 1936, relating to similar conditions in offices.

## CAMPING SITES

No camping sites were licensed for use during the year.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Informal action was taken to remedy nuisances caused by excessive smoke from factories, and this proved fairly successful.

## RODENT CONTROL

Complaints during the year of rat infestation were not large, but the time taken in investigating these complaints was considerable.

Complaints from farms and premises adjoining agricultural land are referred to the Pests Department of the War Agricultural Executive Committee for their attention.

Private premises are dealt with under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act and the infestation Order.

Where infestation occurred on adjoining private and agricultural premises, concerted action was arranged by the Operatives of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and the rat catcher employed by the occupier of the premises.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY.

A more regular and systematic inspection was carried out of cowsheds and dairies and reminders were circularised of the principle requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

There was a notable improvement in the cleanliness of cowsheds as a result of this work and although some of the premises do not comply structurally with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, the position generally was very fair.

Number of Producers registered .....	64
Number of Retail Dairymen registered .....	32
Number of Producers of Accredited milk .....	15
Number of Bacteriological samples taken .....	59
Number of Samples unsatisfactory .....	34
Number of Samples examined for T.B. Bacilli .....	4
Number of Samples found to contain T.B. Bacilli ...	0

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested milk .....	2
Number of persons licensed to sell Pasteurised milk .....	5
Number of Supplementary licenses .....	4

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Slaughtering is still centralised and is carried out in the Warrington County Borough. Pigs slaughtered for "household" consumption were inspected where possible, but owing to the scattered nature of the area it was not possible to carry out inspections in every case. The number of slaughtermen licensed in the area is now eight.

The following amounts of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption, but in some cases quantities were salvaged by the Ministry of Food Salvage Department,



## FOOD CONDEMNED

1 bottle Chutney sauce	12 ozs. Chopped Ham
12 lbs. Pork sausage	3 large tins Soup
10 tins milk	106 lbs. Flour
82 lbs. Oranges	27 lbs. Beans
14 lbs. Jam	7 tins Beans
4 cwts. Potatoes	10 lbs. Peas
360 Eggs	59 lbs. Fish
8 lbs. Spinach	34 lbs. Meat
9 lbs. Carrots	

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Samples taken by the County Sanitary Officer under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are as follows:—

Milk .....	10
Other Goods .....	9

All these samples were found to be genuine and no legal proceedings were taken.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS  
DURING YEAR 1945

## GENERAL SANITATION

Visits re:—

Water Supply .....	111
Drainage .....	76
Offensive Trades .....	20
Fried Fish Shops .....	9
Dirty premises .....	41
Conversions to pails .....	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	37
Factories .....	14
Bakehouses .....	8
Refuse Collection .....	213
Refuse Disposal .....	192
Rats and Mice .....	21
Smoke observations .....	1
Schools .....	4
Defective pails .....	92
Defective bins .....	295
Salvage .....	197
Nurseries .....	2
No. of Council Houses inspected .....	214
No. of visits made for this purpose .....	317
Miscellaneous .....	92

## HOUSING

Under Public Health Act:	
No. of Houses inspected .....	144
No. of visits paid to above houses .....	244
Under Housing Act:	
No. of Houses inspected .....	3
No. of visits paid to above houses .....	3
Verminous Premises:	
No. of Houses inspected .....	8
No. of Houses disinfested .....	3

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease .....	57
Visits re disinfection .....	70
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits .....	10

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to:	
Butchers' shops .....	3
Farms .....	11
Cowsheds .....	98
Dairies .....	68
Ice-cream premises .....	1
Visits in connection with sampling:	
Milk—Bacteriological .....	59
Milk—Tubercle Bacilli .....	11
Water—Bacteriological .....	13
Water—Chemical .....	22
Miscellaneous Food visits .....	18
	<hr/>
	304

## SUMMARY OF TOTAL VISITS

General Sanitation .....	1747
Housing .....	250
Infectious Disease .....	80
Meat and Food Inspection .....	304
	<hr/>
	Total ... 2381

## NOTICES SERVED

No. of Informal Notices served .....	425
No. of Informal Notices complied with .....	365
No. of Statutory Notices served .....	65
No. of Statutory Notices complied with .....	64

## DUSTBIN AND SANITARY PAILS PROVIDED

No. of dustbins supplied .....	296
No. of sanitary pails supplied .....	89





